

**CLAIMS**

I Claim:

- 1 1. A method for communication comprising:  
2 identifying a group of selected members;  
3 assigning the members of the group to a communication channel, wherein the  
4 communication channel is exclusive to the members of the group;  
5 initiating communication without entering an identification number corresponding  
6 to the recipient of the communication; and  
7 communicating between members of the group over the exclusive communication  
8 channel.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying a group of selected members includes  
2 identifying a group of user node devices.
- 1 3 The method of claim 1 wherein assigning the members of the group to an exclusive  
2 communication channel includes assigning the members of the group to an exclusive  
3 communication channel dynamically.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein communicating between the members of the group  
2 includes communicating voice messages.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein communicating between the members of the group  
2 includes communicating data messages.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein communicating between the members of the group  
2 includes communicating location information.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising updating the selected members of the  
2 group, wherein updating includes changing members of the group.

3 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
4 identifying a subset of the group of the selected members, wherein the number of  
5 members in the subset is less than the number of members in the group of selected  
6 members; and  
7 assigning the members of the subset of the group to a communication channel,  
8 wherein the communication channel is exclusive to the members of the subset of the  
9 group.

1 9. The method of claim 4 wherein communicating between the selected members of  
2 the group further includes communicating location information on a separate channel from  
3 the exclusive channel used to communicate voice messages between the members of the  
4 group.

1 10. The method of claim 6 wherein communicating location information includes  
2 sending location information to an external display device

1 11. A communication system comprising:  
2 at least two user node devices; and  
3 at least one device to dynamically assign an exclusive communication channel for  
4 the at least two user node devices.

1 12. The communication system of claim 11 further comprising at least one access  
2 point to communicate with at least one user node device.

1 13. The communication system of claim 11 further comprising at least one router to  
2 communicate with at least one user node device.

1 14. The communication system of claim 11 wherein the at least one device to  
2 dynamically assign an exclusive communication channel includes a bar code scanner.

1 15. The communication system of claim 11 wherein the at least one device to  
2 dynamically assign an exclusive communication channel includes a programmer to  
3 program identification information.

1 16. The communication system of claim 11 further comprising at least one display  
2 device to indicate the location of at least one user node device.

1 17. The communication system of claim 12 wherein at least one of the at least one  
2 access point includes a router.

1 18. The communication system of claim 12 further comprising at least one router to  
2 communicate with the at least one access point.

1 19. The communication system of claim 12 wherein the at least one access point  
2 communicates with at least one access point.

1 20. The communication system of claim 13 further comprising at least one access  
2 point to communicate with the at least one router.

1 21. The communication system of claim 14 wherein the at least one router  
2 communicates with at least one router.

1 22. The communication system of claim 16 wherein the at least one display device is  
2 coupled to at least one of the at least two user node devices.

1 23. The communication system of claim 16 wherein the at least one display device is  
2 external to at least one of the at least two user node devices.

1 24. The communication system of claim 18 wherein the at least one router  
2 communicates with at least one user node device.

1 25. The communication system of claim 20 wherein the at least one access point  
2 communicates with at least one user node device.

1 26. A user node device comprising:  
2 an access device to communicate over a communication channel; and  
3 a group identification device coupled with the access device to be used by an  
4 assigner device and a communication device, wherein the assigner device assigns the user  
5 node device to a user defined group of member user node devices which has a  
6 corresponding exclusive communication channel solely for the members of the user  
7 defined group, and wherein the communication device excludes any user node devices  
8 which are not members of the user defined group from communicating over the exclusive  
9 communication channel and enables the members of the user defined group to  
10 communicate over the exclusive communication channel.

1 27. The user node device of claim 26 further comprising a user input device.

1 28. The user node device of claim 26 further comprising a device to initiate and  
2 terminate capturing of information to be transmitted.

1 29. The user node device of claim 26 further comprising a user output device.

1 30. The user node device of claim 26 further comprising a location device.

1 31. The user node device of claim 26 wherein the access device is a transmitter.

1 32. The user node device of claim 26 wherein the access device is a receiver.

1 33. The user node device of claim 26 wherein the access device is a transceiver that  
2 includes a receiver and a transmitter.

1 34. The user node device of claim 26 wherein the group identification device includes  
2 a programmable identification.

1 35. The user node device of claim 26 wherein the group identification device includes  
2 a bar code.

1 36. The user node device of claim 27 wherein the user input device is a microphone.

1 37. The user node device of claim 27 wherein the user input device is a keypad.

1 38. The user node device of claim 29 wherein the user output device is a speaker.

1 39. The user node device of claim 29 wherein the user output device is a display  
2 device.

1 40. The user node device of claim 33 wherein the transceiver is an IEEE 802.11 b  
2 standard compliant transceiver.

1 41. The user node device of claim 39 wherein the display device displays location  
2 information.

1 42. The user node device of claim 39 wherein the display device displays text  
2 messages.

1 43. A user node device comprising:  
2 an access device to communicate over a communication channel;  
3 a group identification device coupled with the access device to be used by an  
4 assigner device and a communication device, wherein the assigner device assigns the user  
5 node device to a user defined group of member user node devices which has a  
6 corresponding exclusive communication channel solely for the members of the user  
7 defined group, and wherein the communication device excludes any user node devices

8 which are not members of the user defined group from communicating over the exclusive  
9 communication channel and enables the members of the user defined group to  
10 communicate over the exclusive communication channel;

11 a user input device to create messages to be transmitted by the transceiver; and

12 a user output device to present information received by the transceiver to a user.

1 44. The user node device of claim 43 further comprising a location device.

1 45. The user node device of claim 43 further comprising a button to initiate and  
2 terminate capturing of information to be transmitted.

1 46. The user node device of claim 43 wherein the user input device is a microphone.

1 47. The user node device of claim 43 wherein the user output device is a speaker.

1 48. The user node device of claim 43 wherein the group identification device includes  
2 a bar code.

1 49. The user node device of claim 43 wherein the group identification device includes  
2 a programmable identification.

1 50. The user node device of claim 43 wherein the access device is a transceiver

1 51. The user node device of claim 43 wherein the access device is a receiver.

1 52. The user node device of claim 43 wherein the access device is a transmitter.

1 53. The user node device of claim 50 further comprising a device to disable the user  
2 input device.

1 54. The user node device of claim 50 further comprising a device to disable the user  
2 output device.

1 55. An apparatus for channel assignment comprising:

2 a grouping device to select a plurality of user node devices as members of an  
3 exclusive group; and

4 a channel assignment device to assign the members of the selected exclusive group  
5 to an exclusive communication channel.

1 56. The apparatus for channel assignment according to claim 55 wherein the grouping  
2 device includes a bar code scanner.

1 57. The apparatus for channel assignment according to claim 55 wherein the grouping  
2 device includes a programmer to program a group identification information into at least  
3 one of the plurality of member user node devices of the exclusive group.

1 58. The apparatus for channel assignment according to claim 55 wherein the channel  
2 assignment device comprises a computer coupled with the grouping device processor.

1 59. The apparatus for channel assignment according to claim 55 wherein the channel  
2 assignment device generates a member list including identification information of the  
3 member user node devices of the group.

1 60. The apparatus for channel assignment according to claim 59 wherein the member  
2 list is used by a communication device to allow communication between member user  
3 node devices and to prohibit communication between member user node devices and non-  
4 member user node devices.

1 61. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions, the  
2 sequence of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor,  
3 causes the processor to perform:

4 identifying a group of selected members; and

5 assigning the members of the group to a communication channel, wherein the  
6 communication channel is exclusive to the members of the group.

1 62. The computer-readable medium of claim 61 further comprising instructions which,  
2 when executed by the processor, causes the processor to perform:

3 forming a user defined group list, wherein the list includes information relating to  
4 each member of the user defined group.

1 63. The computer-readable medium of claim 62 further comprising instructions which,  
2 when executed by the processor, causes the processor to perform:

3 storing the user defined group list.